

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22 and 23, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 19, 21 and 28, and add Claim 39. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus, comprising:

acquisition means for establishing a first communication with the external apparatus, acquiring print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information in a memory;

page generation means for generating a print request page ~~without connecting to the external apparatus based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited~~ based on the print setting information, after suspending the first communication and before establishing a second communication with the external apparatus;

file generation means for generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

calculating means for calculating a printing fee quotation for the generated print request file; and

print request means for establishing the second communication with the external apparatus ~~to send the generated print request file and sending the generated print request~~

file, after executing a process for displaying the calculated printing fee quotation,

wherein the print request page is generated before the communication with the external apparatus is established by said print request means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising~~[[:]]~~ ~~storage means for storing the print setting information, wherein the print setting information stored in the storage means is checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, to determine whether it is newer than the print setting information which is available at the external apparatus~~ check means for checking whether the printing setting information which is available at the external apparatus is newer than the printing setting information is stored in the memory, wherein said acquisition means executes the acquisition in accordance with the result of the check.

Claims 4 and 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and

wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each of at least one output shop.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said page generation means performs a peruser plug-in function and uses an application communication function of an OS to generate the print request page of a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, for communication purposes, a dial-up connection is used to connect the external apparatus to the Internet.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

second acquisition means for acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information,

wherein the print setting file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method, for controlling an information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus, said method comprising:

an acquisition step, of establishing a first communication with the external apparatus, acquiring print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information in a memory;

a page generation step, of generating a print request page ~~without connecting to the external apparatus based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited~~ based on the print setting information, after suspending the first communication and before establishing a second communication with the external apparatus;

a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

a calculating step, of calculating a printing fee quotation for the generated print request file; and

a print request step, of establishing the second communication with the external apparatus ~~to send the generated print request file~~ and sending the generated print request file, after executing a process for displaying the calculated printing fee quotation,

wherein the print request page is generated before the communication with the external apparatus is established ~~[[at]]~~ in said print request step.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, further comprising ~~a storage step, of storing the print setting information, wherein the print setting information stored at said storage step is checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, to determine whether it is newer than the print setting information which is available at the external apparatus~~ a check step, of checking whether the printing setting information which is available at the external apparatus is newer than the printing setting information is stored in the memory, wherein said acquisition step includes executing the acquisition in accordance with the result of the check.

Claims 13 and 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each of at least one output shop.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein said page generation step includes performing a peruser plug-in function and uses an application communication function of an OS to generate the print request page of a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein, for communication purposes, the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method according to claim 10, further comprising:

a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information,

wherein the print setting file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium storing a program for controlling an information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus, said program comprising:

an acquisition step, of establishing a first communication with the external apparatus, acquiring print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information in a memory;

a page generation step, of generating a print request page ~~without connecting to the external apparatus based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited~~ based on the print setting information, after suspending the first communication and before establishing a second communication with the external apparatus;

a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

a calculating step, of calculating a printing fee quotation for the generated print request file; and

a print request step, of establishing the second communication with the external apparatus ~~to send the generated print request file~~ and sending the generated print request file, after executing a process for displaying the calculated printing fee quotation,

wherein the print request page is generated before the communication with the external apparatus is established ~~[[at]]~~ in said print request step.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, further comprising ~~a storage step, of storing the print setting information,~~ wherein, ~~the print setting information stored at said storage step is checked, before communicating with the external apparatus, to determine whether it is newer than the print setting information which is available at the external apparatus~~ a check step, of checking whether the printing setting information which is available at the external apparatus is newer than the printing setting information is stored in the memory, wherein said acquisition step includes executing the acquisition in accordance with the result of the check.

Claims 22 and 23 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 22, wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus [[at]] in said print request step, [[at]] in said derivation step, print setting information available at the external apparatus is used to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and
wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each of at least one output shop.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
wherein said page generation step includes performing a browser plug-in function and employs an application communication function of an OS to generate the print request page of a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, wherein, for communication purposes, the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19, further comprising:
a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information,

wherein the print setting file is generated with reference to the template file.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer program product embodying a computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus, said program comprising:

an acquisition step, of establishing a first communication with the external apparatus acquiring print setting information from the external apparatus, and storing the print setting information in a memory;

a page generation step, of generating a print request page ~~without connecting to the external apparatus based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited~~ based on the print setting information, after suspending the first communication and before establishing a second communication with the external apparatus;

a file generation step, of generating a print request file according to values input on the print request page; and

a calculating step, of calculating a printing fee quotation for the generated print request file; and

a print request step, of establishing the second communication with the external apparatus ~~to send the generated print request file~~ and sending the generated print request file, after executing a process for displaying the calculated printing fee quotation,

wherein the print request page is generated before the communication with the external apparatus is established ~~[[at]]~~ in said print request step.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the print setting page includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said acquisition means acquires plurality kinds of print server information and the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print server.

Claim 31 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second acquisition means for acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information; and

preview generation means for generating a print preview image,
wherein the page generation means updates the template file such that the
generated print preview image is displayed within the template.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 10, wherein the
print setting page includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 10, wherein said
acquisition step ~~acquires~~ includes acquiring a plurality of kinds of print server information and
the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print server.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 10, further
comprising:
a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print
setting information; and

a preview generating step, of generating a print preview image,
wherein the page generation step ~~updates~~ includes updating the template file
such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A computer-readable memory medium
according to Claim 19, wherein the print setting page includes information indicating a paper size
supported at a print shop.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 19, wherein said acquisition step ~~acquires~~ includes acquiring a plurality of kinds of print server information and the print setting page includes a list for selection of the print server.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 19, further comprising:

- a second acquisition step, of acquiring a template file separately from the print setting information; and
- a preview generation step, of generating a print preview image,

wherein said page generation step ~~updates~~ includes updating the template file such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template.

Claim 38 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- means for detecting an update time of the print setting information stored in the memory;
- means for detecting an update time of the print setting information managed by the external apparatus;
- means for comparing the detected update times; and
- means for regenerating the print setting page in accordance with a comparison result.

Claim 39 (new): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said page generation means further generates a print request page based on a preview image of print data that is currently begin edited.